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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Max Stadthagen (Nicaragua), on the basis of informal consultations

United Nations Population Fund: institutional arrangements

The General Assembly,

Noting Economic and Social Council decision 1995/231 of 13 July 1995, and decision 95/20 of 14 June 1995 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund,

Endorses the agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to designate Fund resident country directors as Fund representatives, on the understanding that the Fund would take measures to enhance cooperation with and active support for resident coordinators for operational activities of the United Nations, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, and on the understanding that the agreement would not result in increased administrative expenditure for the Fund.

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Agenda item 95 (d)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Philippines*: draft resolution

United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development and subsequently endorsed and reaffirmed by the General Assembly,

Reaffirming also its resolution 46/151, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, having as its priority objectives the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth of the African economies, in order to strengthen them within the world economy,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa" 2/ which,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

2/ A/50/125-E/1995/19, annex.

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inter alia, concludes that the response of organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in supporting the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development has not matched the expectations and needs of many developing countries and makes a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa, and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on that report, 3/ each submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in a note by the Secretary-General,

Recognizing the crucial significance of science and technology, including the related information technologies for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology and the promotion of endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the process of growth and development,

Recognizing also that the fundamental objective of science and technology to meet basic needs should be to create conditions that increase the ability of the poor to gain access to, comprehend and use knowledge and technology creatively in order to satisfy their basic needs,

Noting the efforts being undertaken by African leaders within the Presidential Forum on the Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa, 1995-2005,

Taking note of the Cairo Agenda for Action, adopted by the Summit of the Heads of States and Governments on 28 June 1995,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa", 2/ and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon; 3/

2. Requests the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development to update the eight operational guidelines adopted in 1983 in order to provide a more comprehensive conceptual framework for the development and transfer of technology;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in liaison with the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, to recommend and implement policy reforms that are needed to further the progress of science and technology in Africa, indicating the estimated costs of such an undertaking and the possible sources of funding;

4. Requests African Governments to continue to implement political and economic policy reforms aimed at creating a favourable domestic environment for enterprise and innovations without which rapid development is not possible;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that organizations of the United Nations system refine and adopt recommendations 1 through 5 contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning institution-building

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3/ A/50/125/Add.1-E/1995/19/Add.1, annex.

functions, sustainability, the programme approach, technical back-stopping and chief technical advisers without prejudice to the views thereon of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and taking into account General Assembly resolution 47/199 and the outcome of the 1995 triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General, within the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and its upcoming mid-term global review in 1996, to:

(a) Initiate discussions at the highest level of the Administrative Committee on Coordination concerning the possibility of increased United Nations system policy and programmatic collaboration in support of science and technology capacity-building in Africa, especially in key areas identified in section III of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;

(b) Consider the feasibility and the timeliness of establishing a few pilot science and technology strategic institutions of national or subregional scope;

(c) Undertake consultations within the context of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, on the possibility of convening a summit meeting on science and technology for development, with the substantive contribution of all the organizations of the United Nations system, to coincide with the Summit of the Organization of African Unity and with the participation of the donor community;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report, under the appropriate agenda item, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Agenda item 95 (i)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Philippines*: draft resolution

Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991, 47/197 of 22 December 1992, 48/184 of 21 December 1993 and 49/110 of 19 December 1994, all related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recalling its resolution 48/183 of 21 December 1993, in which it proclaimed 1996 the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 49/110 of 19 December 1994, in which it requested that a draft programme on the preparations for and observance of the Year be elaborated at an early date,

Emphasizing the need to focus efforts and policies on the root causes of poverty and the necessity to provide for the basic needs of all,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Recognizing that opportunities for access to resources and income should be enhanced, and that factors and constraints that perpetuate inequality should be removed,

Stressing that the United Nations system should play a key role in the enhancement of support and assistance to developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries, in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the major United Nations conferences organized since 1990 with a view to eradicating poverty,

Emphasizing that empowering women will be a critical factor in the eradication of poverty, since women contribute to the economy and to the eradication of poverty through both their remunerated and their unremunerated work,

Considering that the international community at the highest political level has already reached a consensus and committed itself to the eradication of poverty in recent major United Nations conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as in preparations for the forthcoming second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and in particular at the World Summit for Social Development, which addressed the eradication of poverty as one of its three major themes,

Noting with satisfaction the importance attached at the Halifax Summit of the G-7 group of countries to the eradication of poverty as an overriding priority for improving the plight of the developing countries, in particular the African countries and the least developed countries,

Bearing in mind that Governments decided to adopt the appropriate measures and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, with the assistance, upon request, of the specialized agencies, programmes, funds and regional commissions of the United Nations system, with broad participation of all sectors of civil society,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the draft programme for the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty 1/ and on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, 2/

Having also considered the Copenhagen Declaration 3/ and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 4/ in particular

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1/ A/50/551.

2/ A/50/396.

3/ A/CONF.166/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

paragraph 95 (c) of the Programme of Action, in which it is recommended that the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, declare the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, following the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996), with a view to considering further initiatives on the eradication of poverty,

A. Observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996)

1. Decides that the theme for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty 5/ shall be: "Poverty can be and must be eradicated throughout the world";

2. Urges all Governments, the international community including the United Nations system, and all other actors in society to pursue seriously the objective of the eradication of poverty within the context of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996);

3. Reaffirms that the major activities for the observance of the Year shall be undertaken at all levels, and that assistance shall be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness of the fact that the eradication of poverty is both a complex and multidimensional problem, and is fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;

4. Decides that the aim of the activities during the Year shall be to build the support structure for a longer-term, sustained effort to implement fully and effectively the commitments, recommendations and measures undertaken and the basic provisions already agreed upon at major United Nations conferences since 1990, in particular the World Summit for Social Development; 3/, 4/

5. Also decides that activities during the Year, at all levels, shall be guided, inter alia, by the following principles:

(a) The eradication of poverty requires that a sustained, collective commitment and effort be mounted by Governments, local administrations, civil society, business and corporations, supported by the international community, including the United Nations system and relevant subregional, regional and other international organizations, and also requires that anti-poverty strategies and programmes be designed, implemented and monitored with the full and effective participation of people living in poverty;

(b) The eradication of poverty requires adopting measures to ensure that people living in poverty have access to the resources and opportunities necessary to escape from poverty, as well as measures to ensure that all members of society are protected from poverty that results from illness, loss of employment, natural disasters or other misfortunes;

5/ See Assembly resolution 48/183.

(c) The eradication of poverty requires that all people living in poverty have access to basic social services and can participate in the economic, social, cultural and political life of society;

(d) The eradication of poverty requires that women be given the economic and social opportunities to contribute to development, and that anti-poverty strategies and programmes be designed with a specific gender dimension;

(e) The eradication of poverty requires the development of targeted programmes to meet the special needs of particular social and demographic groups, including young people, disadvantaged older persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or persons;

(f) The eradication of poverty requires that the international community provide increased and more effective support for broad-based development in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries;

6. Recommends that all States, in accordance with the Copenhagen Declaration 3/ and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 4/ undertake the following by 1996:

(a) Develop a precise definition and assessment of absolute poverty;

(b) Elaborate the measurements, criteria and indicators for determining the extent and distribution of absolute poverty;

(c) Formulate or strengthen, as a matter of urgency, national policies and strategies geared to substantially reducing overall poverty in the shortest possible time, reducing inequalities, and eradicating absolute poverty by a target date to be specified by each country in its national context;

(d) Increase public efforts to eradicate absolute poverty and to reduce overall poverty substantially by, inter alia, formulating or strengthening and implementing national poverty eradication plans to address the structural causes of poverty, encompassing action on the local, international, subregional, regional and international levels;

(e) Attach particular attention, in the context of national plans, to employment creation as a means of eradicating poverty, while also giving appropriate consideration to health and education, assigning a higher priority to basic social services, generating household income, and promoting access to productive assets and economic opportunities;

7. Stresses that, during the Year, people living in poverty and their organizations should be empowered by involving them fully in the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty and the development of community bases, ensuring that such programmes reflect their priorities;

8. Approves the activities for the observance of the Year planned by the United Nations system, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General, 1/ and invites them tc take further initiatives;

9. Urges all multilateral financial and development institutions to intensify and accelerate their investments in social sectors and poverty eradication programmes;

10. Welcomes the decision taken by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to establish an eradication of poverty fund in order to help developing countries, particularly African countries and the least developed countries, in the elaboration of national plans to combat poverty;

11. Also welcomes the recent decision taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to establish three task forces on different aspects of the follow-up to United Nations major conferences with a view to considering issues related to the eradication of poverty;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to take all relevant measures to arrange for the wide and effective dissemination of the present resolution and the programme for the observance of the Year, and in this regard invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, concerned national organizations, non-governmental organizations and other interested groups of civil society to give the necessary attention to the observance of the Year;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on action taken to implement the present resolution, as well as action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the programme for the observance of the Year;

B. First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

1. Proclaims the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

2. Urges all Governments and the international community, including the United Nations system, and all other actors in society to pursue seriously the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences related to the eradication of poverty, in particular the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, as an attainable objective within the context of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to establish within the Secretariat a clearly identifiable entity with the resources and number of qualified and competent professional and support staff that are required to undertake a broad range of functions in support of the system-wide implementation of the eradication of poverty, including activities for the Decade, relying on the most efficient and cost-effective use of resources;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite those organs, organizations, programmes, funds and bodies of the United Nations system that

have not already done so to consider the establishment of focal points and other similar mechanisms so that they may effectively implement the provisions, agreements and outcomes of major United Nations conferences relevant to the eradication of poverty;

5. Decides to establish an ad hoc open-ended working committee of the General Assembly to elaborate an operational and comprehensive international framework of action for the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to begin its work as early as possible in 1996;

6. Also decides, for this purpose, to convene two sessions in New York of the ad hoc open-ended working committee, each for a duration of one week, so that it may complete its work no later than September 1996 in order to submit the draft international framework for action for adoption by the Assembly at its fifty-first session;

7. Requests the ad hoc open-ended working committee of the General Assembly, in its deliberations, to take into account the reports, including the recommendations contained therein, submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Assembly resolutions 48/184 of 21 December 1993 and 49/110 of 19 December 1994, as well as the outcome of major conferences related to the eradication of poverty, in particular the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, as well as views and proposals presented by States and/or groups of States, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the outcome of its work;

8. Calls upon States, the United Nations system, relevant international organizations and all other actors concerned with the Decade to participate actively in the financial and technical support of the Decade, in particular with a view to translating all measures and recommendations into operational and concrete poverty eradication programmes and activities;

9. Decides to establish at the level of the United Nations Secretariat a special trust fund for the Decade, and appeals to financial institutions and the private sector to contribute generously to the trust fund for financing poverty eradication activities;

10. Requests, therefore, that the Secretary-General ensure that the outcomes of major United Nations conferences are disseminated as widely as possible, and also to ensure that the international framework of action for the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, once adopted, be transmitted to all States, relevant international and regional organizations, multilateral financial institutions and regional development banks in order to secure their active and substantial contributions;

11. Recommends that donor countries give greater priority to the eradication of poverty in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, including by making contributions to the trust fund for the Decade;

12. Encourages developing countries to mobilize external and domestic resources for poverty eradication programmes and activities, and to facilitate their full and effective implementation;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session an item entitled "First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".